

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19818 210751Z  
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19818

EXDIS

TEL AVIV FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CI, UR, US  
SUBJECT: THE DISSIDENTS CELEBRATE A VICTORY: THE RELEASE OF  
BUKOVSKIY

REF: MOSCOW 19677

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING YURIY ORLOV AND  
VALENTIN TURCHIN, GATHERED AT LYUDA ALEKSEYEVA'S TO CELEBRATE  
THE RELEASE OF VLADIMIR BUKOVSKIY AND THEN WENT TO PAY THEIR  
RESPECTS TO HIS MOTHER, NINA BUKOVSKIY. THE FESTIVITIES PASSED  
UNDER THE SOLICITOUS EYE OF THE KGB. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWS OF THE RELEASE OF VLADIMIR BUKOVSKIY TRIGGERED A ROUND  
OF CELEBRATIONS IN MOSCOW'S DISSIDENT COMMUNITY ON FRIDAY NIGHT  
(DECEMBER 17). THIS WAS A SMALL BUT HEARTENING VICTORY DURING  
A PERIOD WHEN EMIGRATION, ATTRITION, AND PETTY BUT SYSTEMATIC  
HARASSMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES HAD LOWERED MORALE AND INHIBITED  
DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES. WE ARE TOLD THAT A GROUP OF DISSIDENTS,  
INCLUDING ORLOV AND TURCHIN, GATHERED AT LYUDA ALEKSEYEVA'S  
THAT EVENING FOR AN IMPROMPTU CELEBRATION. THEY SAVORED THE  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19818 210751Z

MOMENT AND EXCHANGED THE LATEST SCRAPS OF INFORMATION. IT APPEARS  
THAT WHEN THE KGB INFORMED MRS. BUKOVSKIY ON THURSDAY OF THEIR  
INTENTIONS, THEY WARNED HER TO REMAIN SILENT. OF COURSE, SHE  
DID NOT, AND THE NEWS TRAVELLED THAT DAY WITH LIGHTNING SPEED,  
OVERCOMING ALL OBSTACLES--EVEN THE LACK OF TELEPHONES IN A  
NUMBER OF DISSIDENT APARTMENTS. TURCHIN REPORTEDLY PROUDLY

CLAIMED THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAD PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO EXCHANGE BUKOVSKIY FOR CORVALAN.

3. THE GROUP THEN PILED INTO TWO TAXIS AND WENT TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO MRS. BUKOVSKIY FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE SHE DEPARTED WITH HER SON THE FOLLOWING DAY. THEY ARRIVED LATE AND FOUND A CELEBRATION IN PROGRESS BUT ALREADY WINDING DOWN. A CROWD OF WELL-WISHERS WAS MILLING ABOUT THE APARTMENT, TRYING TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN. A FEW MINUTES EARLIER, THE MILITIA APPEARED AT THE DOOR WITH THE WARNING THAT NEIGHBORS HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT THE NOISE.

4. HALF-PACKED BAGS AND SUITCASES WERE LYING IN ONE CORNER. ALTHOUGH MRS. BUKOVSKIY WAS EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED, SHE NEVERTHELESS TRIED TO USE THE OCCASION TO TALK TO OLD FRIENDS FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE DEPARTURE. SHE FINALLY RETIRED. THE COMPANY REMAINED FOR A WHILE LONGER, READING AND SIGNING A STATEMENT THAT ACCUSED SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF SOVIET LAW DURING THE TRIAL AND IMPRISONMENT OF BUKOVSKIY, AND OF LYING ABOUT HIS CASE IN THE PRESS. (THIS STATEMENT IS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FOREIGN PRESS WHEN THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES IS GATHERED.)

5. WE ARE TOLD THAT WHEN MOST OF THE GUESTS FINALLY LEFT AND WERE STANDING IN THE STREET TRYING TO GET TAXIS, ORLOV HAILED A TAXI DRIVING BY SLOWLY WITH SEVERAL PASSENGERS, IN THE HOPE THAT IT WAS GOING IN HIS DIRECTION. HE LEANED INTO THE DRIVER'S WINDOW--AND RECOGNIZED THE OCCUPANTS AS FAMILIAR KGB TYPES. THEY OFFERED HIM A RIDE. HE WAVED TO HIS FRIENDS REASSURINGLY AND CALLED OUT, "IT'S ALL RIGHT, THEY ARE OURS\*" ("NICHEGO, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19818 210751Z

ONI SVOI\*), AND GOT IN. THE GROUP BROKE UP IN STITCHES OVER ORLOV'S QUIP. NOT HAVING HEARD ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY, WE ASSUME HE GOT HOME ALL RIGHT.  
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## Message Attributes

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